

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2010, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Claims 1-138

The Examiner rejected claims 1-138 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raven in view of Paulsen. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. For the sake of brevity, the rejections of the independent claims are discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patentably distinct over the prior art, as they depend directly from their respective independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further, separate and independent bases for patentability.

The Examiner has acknowledged that the Raven reference lacks the claim element: “integrating the systems interface display system into the gaming platform screen used to display the gaming information.” In this regard, the claimed invention recites:

a systems interface incorporated into the gaming interface display screen of the gaming platform, wherein the systems interface displays non-gaming system information from a system network through the gaming platform to a casino player or employee via the gaming interface display screen of the gaming platform, and wherein the systems interface allows requests to be input into the system network from the systems interface through the gaming platform by a casino player or employee.¹ (Emphasis added).

While the Paulsen reference does state that a player may use the “personal gaming device 20” to “make a room, show or restaurant reservations and obtain hotel/casino information,” the Paulsen reference does NOT disclose how the personal gaming device 20 would be used to accomplish this task. Specifically, the claimed invention requires that system information is displayed through the gaming interface display screen. The Paulsen reference provides no disclosure whatsoever as to how its “system information” (e.g., hotel/casino information) would be made available to a user. The Paulsen reference is described as containing a keypad 46, a

¹ This claim language is from independent claim 1. Similar claim language is present in the other independent claims.

speaker 36, a microphone 48, and various I/O devices including a “data port 38 for transmitting and accepting data, such as through a cable extending between the device 20 and another device, such as a computer.” See para. [0023]. Thus, there are many ways for the player to use the “personal gaming device 20” to “make a room, show or restaurant reservation and obtain hotel/casino information” that do not involve use of the gaming display screen.

Accordingly, nowhere is it disclosed that the Paulsen reference uses “a systems interface incorporated into the gaming interface display screen of the gaming platform ... [to] displays non-gaming system information from a system network through the gaming platform to a casino player or employee via the gaming interface display screen.” Indeed, the claimed invention clearly recites that the system information is displayed through the gaming interface display screen, and none of the cited references (including the Paulsen reference) disclose system information being displayed through the gaming interface display screen. Respectfully, Applicants submit that the mere fact that the “personal gaming device 20” of the Paulsen reference can be used to “make a room, show or restaurant reservation and obtain hotel/casino information” (e.g., present system information) is not sufficient to disclose the claimed invention, since the gaming device of the Paulsen reference does not present the system information “via the gaming interface display screen.” This claim element is clearly missing from the Paulsen reference.

Beverages and Change Service Features:

Claims 21, 47, and 119 of the recited invention state: “the player services interface provides player access to service features including ordering beverages and receiving change.” None of the cited references (including Paulsen) teach or suggest that the system interface of the claimed invention provides a player service interface, “wherein the player services interface provides player access to service features including ordering beverages and receiving change.” Indeed, due to the small, mobile nature of the “personal gaming device 20” of the Paulsen reference, the Paulsen reference actually teaches away from the claimed invention. First, the small size of the “personal gaming device 20” of the Paulsen reference makes it too diminutive to contain the funds or associated equipment necessary to make change. Second, the mobile nature of the “personal gaming device 20” of the Paulsen reference makes it impractical to be used to order beverages because a server would not know where to find the user that ordered the beverages.

Small Region for Activation of the System Interface:

Claims 10, 27, 54, 77, 87, 108, and 125, of the claimed invention recite: “wherein the gaming display screen includes a small region that, when selected, activates the systems interface.” The Examiner has referenced no citation in Paulsen that supports his conclusion that this claim element is obvious. Instead, the Examiner has stated: “The Examiner views the touchscreen of Paulsen as being capable of having a small region that is selectable by a user that may show messages to the user once the user touches the screen to select one of the goods and services.” Respectfully, the Paulsen reference provides no disclosure whatsoever regarding how the personal gaming device would make “system information” available to the player. As such, there is clearly no teaching or suggesting supporting the more specific recitation of the claim element “wherein the gaming display screen includes a small region that, when selected, activates the systems interface.” Applicants respectfully submit that without some type of supporting disclosure, the Examiner may not simply make a conclusory statement that the claimed invention is obvious or that Paulsen is “capable of” having the claim element without any actual teaching or suggestion.

Claims 11, 28, 55, 78, 88, 109, and 126 of the claimed invention recite: “wherein the game display process recognizes when the small region of the display screen is selected, and relinquishes control of the display screen to the systems logic process, allowing communication between the systems interface and the system network.” The Examiner has provided no support for his conclusion that this claim element is obvious in view of the cited references. Applicants respectfully submit that without some type of supporting reference, the Examiner may not simply make a conclusory statement that the claimed invention is obvious. The Paulsen reference provides no disclosure whatsoever regarding how the personal gaming device would make “system information” available to the player.

Message Section of the Display Screen:

Claims 12, 29, 56, 79, 89, 110, and 127, of the claimed invention recite: “further comprising a message section of the display screen, wherein the section of the display screen is allocated for showing messages to a player of the gaming device.” The Examiner has provided no support for his conclusion that this claim element is obvious in view of the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that without some type of supporting reference, the Examiner may not simply make a conclusory statement that the claimed invention is obvious. The Paulsen reference provides no disclosure whatsoever regarding how the personal gaming device would make “system information” available to the player. As such, there is clearly no teaching or suggestion supporting the more specific recitation of display screen allocation for a dedicated message section.

Claims 13, 30, 57, 80, 90, 111, and 128 of the claimed invention recite: “wherein the message section of the display screen is dedicated to control by the systems logic process, and is free from control by the game display process.” The Examiner has provided no support for his conclusion that this claim element is obvious in view of the cited references. Applicants respectfully submit that without some type of supporting reference, the Examiner may not simply make a conclusory statement that the claimed invention is obvious. The Paulsen reference provides no disclosure whatsoever regarding how the personal gaming device would make “system information” available to the player. As such, there is clearly no teaching or suggestion supporting the more specific recitation of the claim element “wherein the message section of the display screen is dedicated to control by the systems logic process, and is free from control by the game display process.”

Accordingly, the Raven and Paulsen references do not teach, disclose or suggest the above recited elements of claims 1-138. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1-138 overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

CONCLUSION

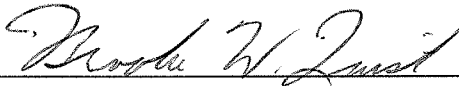
Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 1-138 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees indicated in the Fee Transmittal, any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 194293, Deposit Account Name STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 734-3200. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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